

Docket JP920000198US1

Appl. No.: 09/649,738
Filed: August 28, 2000IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the following amendments:

1. (currently amended) In a A computing system consisting of a processor, memory storage, input and output devices, a network interface adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) for booting, said system being connected to a remote email server, characterized in that said BIOS includes comprising:
 - a processor;
 - memory storage;
 - input and output devices;
 - a network interface adapter for connecting the computing system to a remote email server via a network; and
 - a basic input/output system (BIOS) for booting the computing system, wherein the BIOS includes:
 - a communicating means to communicate for communicating with the network adapter, wherein the communicating means—a means to accesses the said remote email server through the network during the boot up process—booting of the computer system using said network adapter,—a means to download and downloads, the email count during the booting of the computing system, for the current user email headers from the remote email server on said network; and
 - means for parsing the email headers during the booting of the computing system to extract an email count for a user; and
 - a means to display the email count during the booting of the computer system for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.
2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.

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3. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising configuration means for configuring the designated users of the system during a previous certain operation prior to the booting of the computing system.
4. (currently amended) In a computing system including a display, a network adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) connected to a remote email server through a network, a method for accessing email count during the boot up process booting of the computer system, the method comprising:
 - booting the computing system by the BIOS;
 - communicating with the network adapter, wherein the communicating includes accessing the network during the boot up-booting of the computer system by the BIOS using said network adapter; and downloading, by the BIOS during the booting of the computer system, the email count for the user_email headers from the remote email server on said network; and
 - parsing the email headers, by the BIOS during the booting of the computer system, to extract an email count for a user; and
 - displaying, by the BIOS during the booting of the computer system, the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.
5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising configuring the designated users of the system during a previous certain operation prior to the booting of the computing system.
7. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising computer readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for causing a computer computing system to access an email count during booting of the computing system, the boot up process, said computer program code comprising:

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basic input/output system (BIOS) computer readable program code means
configured for performing booting the computing system, wherein the BIOS computer
readable program code means includes:

- computer readable program code means configured for communicating with a network adapter, wherein the communicating includes—computer readable program code means configured for accessing a said remote email server through a network during the booting of the computing system boot up process using said network adapter;—computer readable program code means configured for and downloading, during the booting of the computing system, the email count for the current user email headers from the remote email server on said network; and
computer readable program code means configured for parsing the email headers during the booting of the computing system to extract an email count for a user; and
- computer readable program code means configured for displaying, during the booting of the computing system, the email count for the current user in a defined format on a display of said computing system.

8. (currently amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 7 wherein said computer readable program code means is configured for communicating with the network adapter through the a TCP/IP protocol.
9. (currently amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1 further comprising computer readable program code means for configuring the designated users of the system during a previous system certain operation prior to the booting of the computing system.